



Willingham  
Buckingham  
Leialoha  
Pepoy

**VERTIGO**

Jul '11  
suggested for  
mature readers  
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# THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE WORLDS

CHAPTER  
FOUR of  
**SUPER  
TEAM**

SECONDS  
LATER...

CAN YOU  
DO IT, SON? DO  
YOU TRULY HAVE  
SOME BOLD PLAN  
TO DESTROY  
ME?

IF NOT, IF YOU  
CAN'T DO WHAT YOU  
PROMISED, THEN  
I'VE NO OTHER OPTION  
BUT TO DO WHAT  
I PROMISED.

I HAVE TO  
KILL YOUR SON,  
GHOST.

BILL  
WILLINGHAM  
*writer - creator*

MARK  
BUCKINGHAM  
*penciller*

STEVE  
LEIALOHA  
*inker*

ANDREW  
PEPOY  
*inker, pp 5,  
8-10, 16-17*

LEE  
LOUGHRIDGE  
*colors*

TODD  
KLEIN  
*letters*

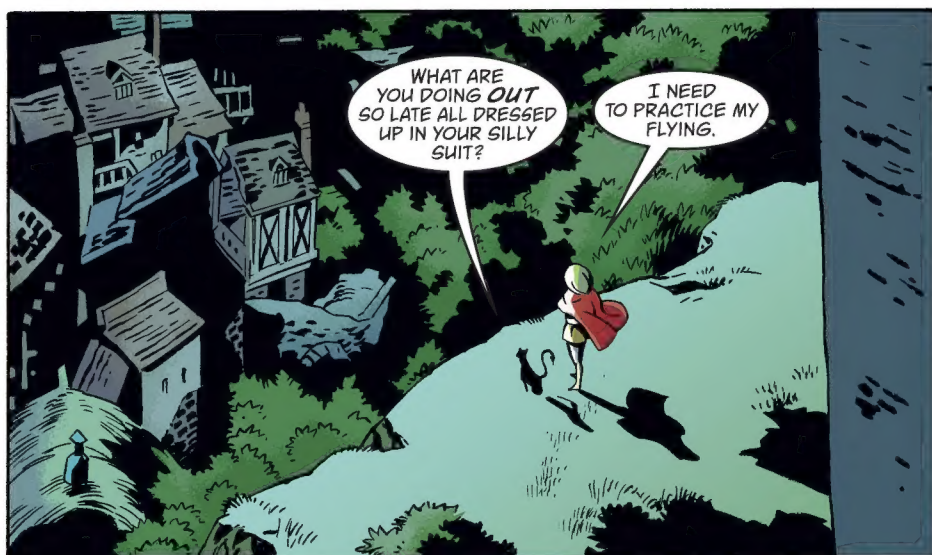
JOAO RUAS  
*cover, after  
Bogdanove  
and Janke*

GREGORY  
LOCKARD:  
*asst. ed.*

SHELLY  
BOND:  
*editor*







WHAT ARE YOU DOING *OUT* SO LATE ALL DRESSED UP IN YOUR SILLY SUIT?

I NEED TO PRACTICE MY FLYING.



WHY? IT'S A WASTE OF POWER FOR SCANT TACTICAL ADVANTAGE.

PERHAPS, BUT PINOCCHIO SEEMS TO THINK IT'S *THEMATICALLY* IMPORTANT I FLY, AND SHOOT EYE-BEAMS AND SUCH.



SINCE HE SEEMS TO *KNOW* SO MUCH ABOUT THIS SORT OF GAMBIT, I THINK IT'S BEST TO GO ALONG WITH HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

OKAY, BUT I THINK YOU'VE ALL GONE NUTS.



QUITE ROUND THE BEND.







CLANDESTINE  
MIDNIGHT MEETINGS IN  
THE WOODS?

WOULD ONE  
OF YOU GENTLEMEN  
CARE TO **EXPLAIN**  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON HERE?

PRIVATE  
BUSINESS.





GO AWAY, LITTLE GIRL.



WHERE WERE WE?

YOU WERE ABOUT TO TELL ME WHY YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL MY SON.

OH, YES.



MOST GROUNDINGLS ARE *SIMPLE* FOLK. THEY LOOK AT A GREAT KING AND SEE NOTHING BUT THE POMP AND PRIVILEGE HE ENJOYS. AND THEY ENVY HIM FOR THAT.

WISER MEN MIGHT INSTEAD SEE THE UNBREAKABLE *CHAINS*, FORGED BY THE TERRIBLE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ANY GREAT KING MUST TAKE ON.

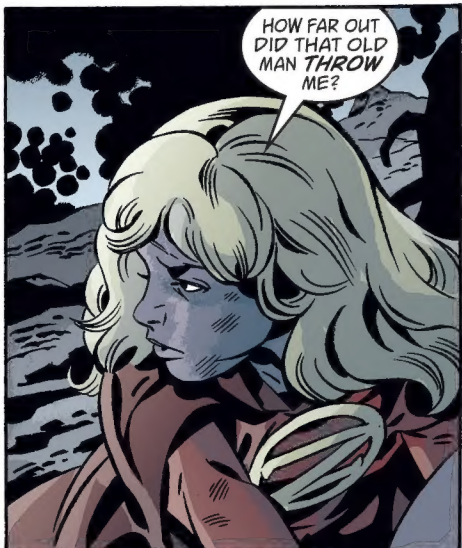
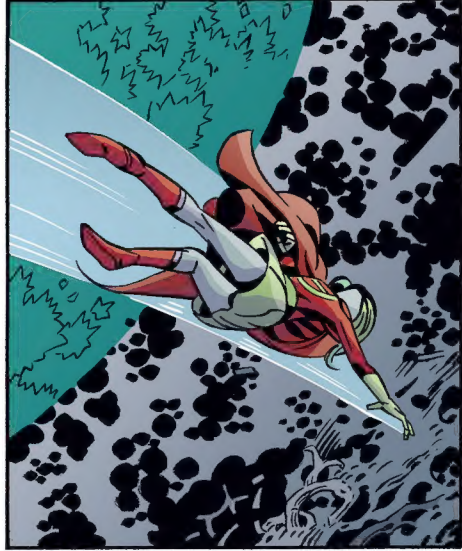


I'M THE KING OF THE NORTH.

I *CANNOT* AND *WILL* NOT BE FORSWORN. I'M COMPELLED TO CARRY OUT MY DUTY.



NO MATTER WHO SIRES IT, MONSTERS *MUST* BE DESTROYED. THAT WAS MY ANCIENT DECREE, LONG *BEFORE* YOU EXISTED.







I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HATE ME SO, SON.



I LEFT YOUR MOTHER TO WITHER AND DIE OF--WHAT DO WE CALL IT?

ABSENCE?



A HOLE THAT COULDN'T BE FILLED, OR SEWN SHUT, SO THAT HER VITALITY FOR LIFE SIMPLY BLEED OUT?



MAKE NO MISTAKE, THOUGH. I DID LOVE HER, IN MY WAY. AND WHILE IT LASTED, IT WAS TRUE AND COMPLETE.



YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD. NEVER EVEN TRIED.

I UNDERSTOOD YOU WELL ENOUGH, OLD MAN. I WITNESSED FIRSTHAND YOUR LACK OF CHARACTER.



BUT THAT'S THE POINT.

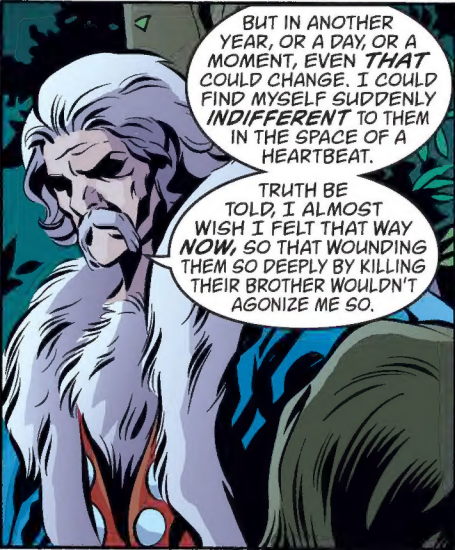
WINDS CHANGE. IT'S OUR NATURE.





FROM TERMITE TO TITAN, WE'RE ALL SLAVES TO OUR MOST BASIC NATURE.

TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, I ADORE MY GRANDCHILDREN, AS I HAVE DONE FOR YEARS. THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR THEM. NO SACRIFICE I WOULDN'T MAKE.



BUT IN ANOTHER YEAR, OR A DAY, OR A MOMENT, EVEN THAT COULD CHANGE. I COULD FIND MYSELF SUDDENLY INDIFFERENT TO THEM IN THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT.

TRUTH BE TOLD, I ALMOST WISH I FELT THAT WAY NOW, SO THAT WOUNDING THEM SO DEEPLY BY KILLING THEIR BROTHER WOULDN'T AGONIZE ME SO.



IF YOU'RE SO GODDAMN FICKLE, WHY NOT CHANGE INTO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE OATHS HE'S TAKEN AND THE PROMISES HE'S MADE?

BECOME A SHIFTLESS AND UNRELIABLE SCOUNDREL.



I KNOW YOU HAVE IT IN YOU. I SAW IT.

BE A VERSION OF YOURSELF THAT DOESN'T FEEL THE NEED TO EXECUTE ONE OF MY CHILDREN, JUST TO PROVE HIS RIDICULOUS SENSE OF HONOR.



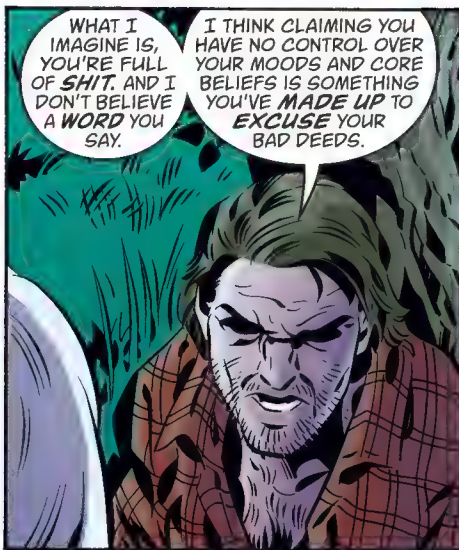
GOOD IDEA.

WOULD THAT I COULD SNAP MY FINGERS AND MAKE IT SO.



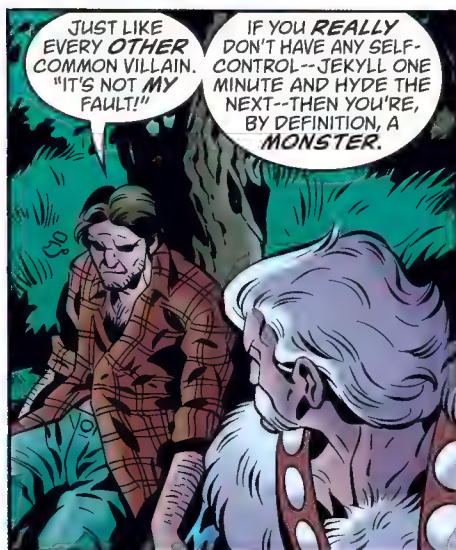
DO YOU THINK I **PLAN** THESE CHANGES OF DIRECTION?

DO YOU IMAGINE I'M THE SOLE CREATURE IN ALL OF **CREATION** WHOSE WHIMS AND MOODS ARE THE PRODUCT OF COLD DESIGN AND CALCULATION?



WHAT I IMAGINE IS, YOU'RE FULL OF **SHIT**. AND I DON'T BELIEVE A **WORD** YOU SAY.

I THINK CLAIMING YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER YOUR MOODS AND CORE BELIEFS IS SOMETHING YOU'VE **MADE UP** TO **EXCUSE** YOUR BAD DEEDS.



JUST LIKE EVERY **OTHER** COMMON VILLAIN. "IT'S NOT **MY** FAULT!"

IF YOU **REALLY** DON'T HAVE ANY SELF-CONTROL--JEKYLL ONE MINUTE AND HYDE THE NEXT--THEN YOU'RE, BY DEFINITION, A **MONSTER**.



AND BY YOUR **OWN** IRREVOCABLE, UNWAVERING STANDARDS, MONSTERS HAVE TO BE DESTROYED **WHEREVER** THEY'RE FOUND.

**RIGHT?**



SO WHY AREN'T YOU ALREADY **DEAD** BY YOUR OWN HAND?






IN NEW YORK'S  
DARK AND  
UNPLEASANT  
LAND...

I'M SORRY,  
LOVE, BUT I MUST  
BE OFF.




I CAN'T STAY  
TOO LONG AWAY FROM  
HAVEN, WHEN I'M MAKING  
SUCH PROGRESS IN  
DEGRADING ITS  
WARDS.




MUST KEEP  
UP THE PRESSURE.  
SHIRKERS ARE SELDOM  
REWARDED.

THE FROG  
KING'S BARRIERS WILL  
FALL IN A DAY OR TWO AT  
THE MOST. THEN I'LL BE  
IN THERE RAKING  
AMONG THEM.



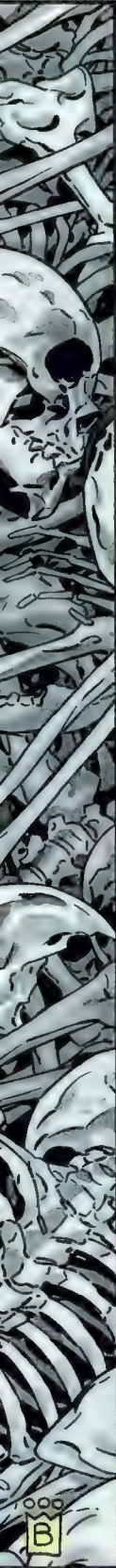
BUT YOU PROMISED  
ME I'D BE THERE, TO SEE  
THEM ALL MADE **UGLY**  
BEFORE THEY DIE.

AND SO  
YOU SHALL BE. I'LL  
CALL YOU TO MY SIDE  
THE MOMENT THE  
RAMPARTS FALL.



BUT THAT WON'T  
DO. I'M NOT **READY**  
YET.

I'M NOT  
PRETTY YET. I CAN'T  
HAVE THEM SEE ME LIKE  
THIS. STILL **FAT**. STILL  
**UGLY**.



YOU'RE ALREADY LOVELY TO ME, DEAREST ONE, FOR I CAN SEE WHAT YOU'RE BECOMING.

BUT NOT QUICKLY ENOUGH. CAN'T YOU SPEED THINGS UP?



NOT WITHOUT HURTING YOU. EVEN IN MY MOST MAGICAL OF REALMS THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH. SUCH LOVELY IDIOMS THE MUNDYS HAVE.



THE PAIN OF EXERCISE AND PRIVATION THAT YOU ENDURE NOW WILL BE MULTIPLIED TO MATCH THE ACCELERATED RATE OF CHANGE.



I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT HURTS. IT'S WORTH IT.

DO IT. CHANGE ME NOW.

AS YOU WISH.



STEP OUT OF BED.

NO NEED TO RUIN THE GOOD LINENS.

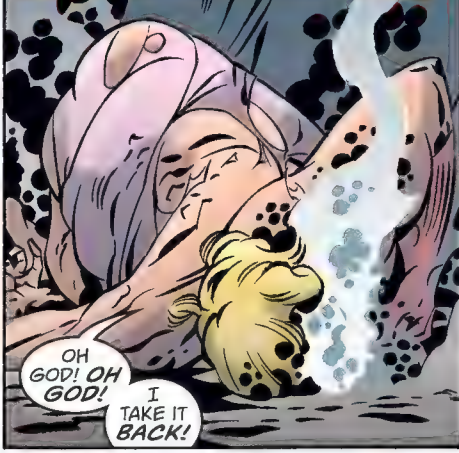
READY?



AAAAAAAARR-RRAAAGHHH!!



**GGRAACKK!**



OH GOD! OH GOD!

I TAKE IT BACK!

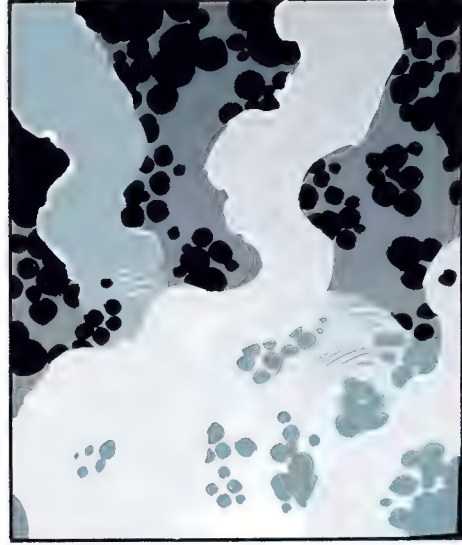


I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!

TOO LATE, DEAREST.



UUUUNNGH!



THERE. ALL DONE.

NOW STAND UP, LOVE. YOU CAN DO IT.

B

B



LET'S  
GET A  
GOOD  
LOOK AT  
YOU.



**B** BACK IN HAVEN...

DESPITE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND DETERMINATION, YOUR SILLY BAND OF WARRIORS WOULD NEVER **SURVIVE** A FIGHT WITH THE DARK ONE, ANY MORE THAN YOU COULD SURVIVE ONE WITH **ME**.

YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE BECAUSE THE OTHER WITCH DID SO **WELL**--NEARLY WORE HIM DOWN.

BUT SHE WAS SOMETHING **SPECIAL**. AND SHE SPENT ALL SHE HAD DOING AS WELL AS SHE DID. MORE THAN A **MILLENNIUM** OF ACCUMULATED POWER.

IN THE PROCESS SHE EMPTIED HERSELF, BECOMING SMALL AND **ORDINARY**, JUST AS SHE'D REACHED THE THRESHOLD OF GREATNESS.

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON THE CUSP OF BECOMING ONE OF **US**--SOME SORT OF ARCHETYPE OF WITCHES. WHO KNOWS?

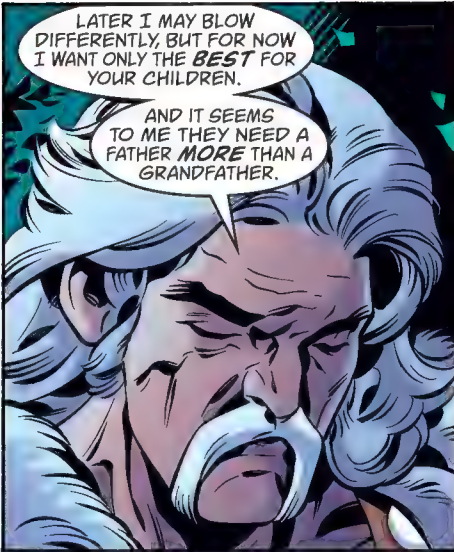
NOW IT'LL TAKE HER AT LEAST ANOTHER THOUSAND YEARS TO BECOME EVEN A **SHADOW** OF WHAT SHE ONCE WAS, LESS THAN A YEAR PAST.

THE HANDFUL OF YOU IN YOUR IMAGINARY SUPER TEAM CAN'T APPROACH A **TENTH** OF WHAT SHE ALMOST ACCOMPLISHED.

WE STILL HAVE TO **TRY**.

WE'VE NO OTHER **CHOICE**. SOME OF US TAKE OUR OBLIGATIONS **SERIOUSLY**.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN **LISTENING** TO ME, SON.





I HEARD SCREAMING.



THINK NOTHING OF IT, MR. HOLT.

MY INTENDED HAD AN EPISODE.

AND IT'S ONLY FIT THAT CASTLE DARK WILL BE A HOUSE OF SCREAMS FROM TIME TO TIME.



WHAT'S THAT?

THE SKULL OF SOME GOBLIN. I'M SAVING IT IN CASE I CAN EAT HIS TEETH LATER.



WHY NOT NOW?

I'D BEEN MEANING TO REMIND YOU, THE LAST OF THE CONSTRUCTION CAN'T BE COMPLETED WITHOUT YOUR WITHERINGS.



GRANTED, BUT I'VE TEMPORARILY LOST MY TASTE FOR IT.

I'VE SUFFERED A QUEASY BELLY SINCE THE DUEL.





I WONDER IF THAT RIDICULOUS CONJURE WOMAN MANAGED TO HURT ME MORE THAN I FIRST REALIZED.

NO MIND.



I'LL RECOVER MY APPETITE IN TIME.

THE DARKNESS ALWAYS COMES BACK.

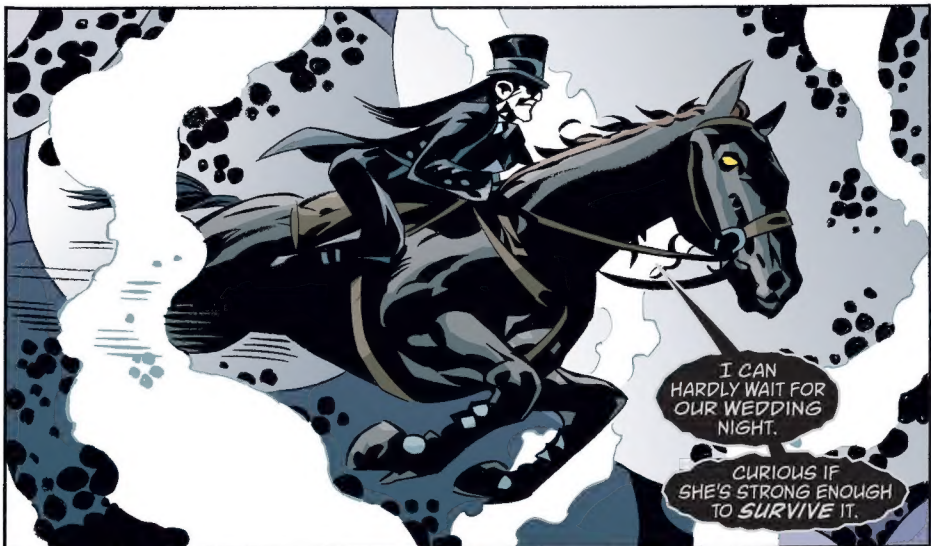


LOOK AFTER THINGS HERE WHILE I'M GONE. AND HANDS OFF MY BRIDE.

NO TROUBLES THERE, SIR. SHE'S NOT MY TYPE.



YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER LATELY.



I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR OUR WEDDING NIGHT.

CURIOUS IF SHE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE IT.





OH DEAR ME, IS THAT THE NORTH WIND AGAIN?

WE SIMPLY *MUST* STOP MEETING LIKE THIS. PEOPLE WILL BEGIN TO TALK.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT HERE TO INVITE ME TO ANOTHER *DUEL*. MY DANCE CARD IS ALREADY FULL.

NO.

THIS TIME THINK OF IT AS MORE OF AN *EXECUTION*.

**NEXT:**  
*The dangers of being too close when GODS BATTLE!*

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# BILL WILLINGHAM

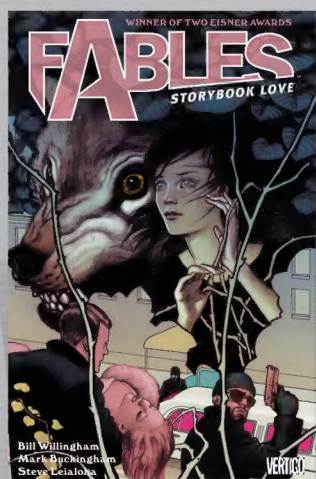
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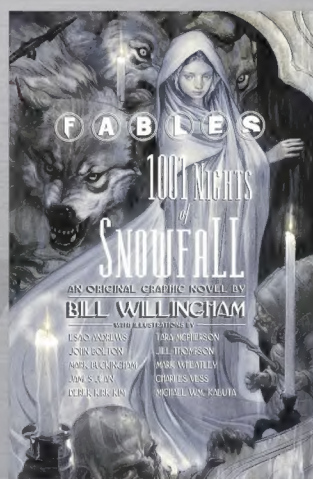
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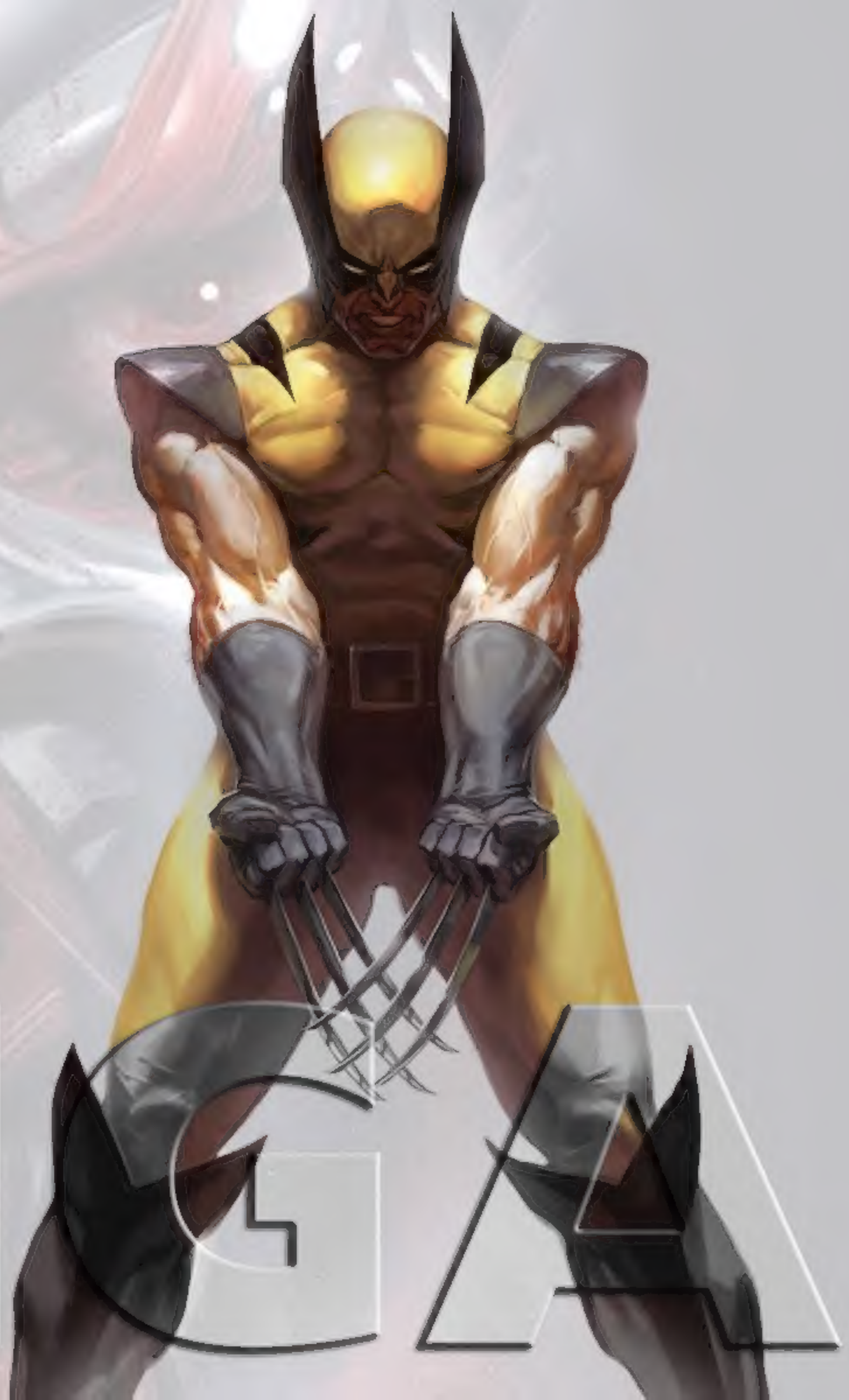


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NATHAN